

Calvillo, Stephanie

From: Sharon Rakowski <sharonsrakowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 2, 2022 11:22 AM
To: Communications
Subject: Senior of the Year

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We are nominating Audrey Schuurmann for 2022 Lombard Senior Woman of the Year. She is a Lombard resident and over 65; nomination submitted by Cynthia Ward and Sharon Rakowski

Nomination

Audrey Schuurmann is the person to call when something needs getting accomplished in her Lombard community. With the Lombard Historical Society and Garden Club she led the restoration of the highly visible Sheldon Peck Homestead native garden, chairs the Helen Plum Library plant committee and serves in many other capacities. At Calvary Episcopal she manages the vegetable garden that raises produce for the food pantry, is a stalwart of the stewardship committee, a trusted member tasked with the counting of donations every Sunday and serves in other essential roles.

Audrey Schuurmann's Bio

Audrey was born and raised in Michigan, the youngest of five children. She began gardening as a child, following her father's example. She attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and after graduation, she married Bruce, a medical student. They lived in Denver for his internship, then he joined the Public Health Service and was stationed at the Gallup, New Mexico Indian Hospital. Audrey and Bruce spent 40 years in Gallup, with their son and daughter growing up there. The Schuurmanns moved to Lombard in 2012 and quickly became part of the community.

Audrey has held a variety of jobs, including church administrator, secretary, English teacher, mental health counselor and hospital business office manager. She has also had a number of volunteer experiences, including building houses with Habitat for Humanity and serving as church organist.

The Peck Homestead has been a long-term commitment on Audrey's part. She was among the first to work on restoring the area. Familiar with native plants in New Mexico, she learned about the plants native to her new home and applied that knowledge to the garden. Audrey took leadership of the small volunteer group, had it formalized as a committee with the garden club and obtained a working budget.

In addition to Audrey's love of gardening she is also organized and works well with others. She set up a three-year plan for planting until the perennial native garden got established. Planning meetings and work days were scheduled for the group, now known as the "Peckies". With her low-key disposition and kindness people like to work with her.

So what passers-by see when they go past the Peck Homestead is a lovely garden with markers identifying plants. With its emphasis on pollinators, the garden was certified as a Monarch Waystation.

Similarly, with Audrey's volunteer work at Calvary Episcopal, she is one of the people working behind the scenes to support the congregation. For example, with the vegetable garden at the church, Audrey has been involved from the start and been instrumental in keeping it successful. Along with a few church members, she plants, waters and harvests, and then donates to the food pantry.

Audrey's continuing commitment and leadership to these community efforts are the reasons we are nominating Audrey Schuurmann for 2022 Senior Woman of the Year.